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REMINDERS: Written reports from Committee Chairmen and Regional Coordinators are due prior to the Board meeting, in adequate time to permit reproduction.

Please notify the League office of your anticipated time of arrival, particularly if arriving early enough to require billeting on Thursday, April 10th.

COPIES ENCLOSED: Enclosed are copies of letters written the State and Defense Departments, specifically to Deputy Assistant Secretary Nick Platt, DOD, and Deputy Assistant Secretary John Negroponce, State Department.

LEAGUE TELEPHONE NUMBER: The telephone number in the League office has been changed due to relocation of the boundaries. The new number is (202) 223-6846. The American Legion number in the office is now direct - (202) 861-2788, preferably for use only when the other lines are out of order. Obviously, if the regular League numbers are busy, then so is the office staff.

SENATE COMPANION RESOLUTION: As mentioned in the March 25th newsletter, H.J. Res. 507, pertaining to establishing July 18, 1980 as National POW/MIA Day, has been introduced in the House. To establish the commemorative day, the Senate must pass an identical resolution.

I have contacted Senator John Glenn's office, encouraging him to introduce the necessary resolution. The resolution would be assigned to the Senate Judiciary Committee for action by the whole Committee and would not be assigned to any Subcommittee. Several previously supportive Senators sit on the Judiciary Committee; therefore, I foresee no problem with passage.

The only problem is to obtain passage in adequate time to permit the necessary planning for ceremonies. I am now in the process of notifying DCD, VA and other interested agencies of impending passage. It is hoped that ceremonies will equal or surpass those provided last year. Any suggestions would be helpful.

TYPEWRITER SITUATION: The American Legion has provided us with one usable machine. The two Royal typewriters which belong to the League are being sent out for a repair estimate. If they can be repaired for a feasible amount, that will be done and the machines will again be put on a service contract. In the interim, the problem is under control. Should we be successful, which I doubt, in obtaining the part-time employee for which we have been searching, we will request a loan machine from the American Legion.

AGENDA: The Chairman has provided an agenda for the upcoming Board meeting. Any additional agenda items should be sent to the League office as soon as possible. The agenda will be finalized by April 4th for distribution to all Board members.

ADDITIONAL COPIES ENCLOSED: Two additional letters were just received in the mail which bear forwarding to on to you, one is from General David C. Jones and the other from Lt. General E.F. Tighe. The content is self-explanatory.



NATIONAL LEAGUE OF FAMILIES
OF AMERICAN PRISONERS AND MISSING IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

1608 K STREET, N.W., WASHINGTON, D. C. 20006 (202) 628-6811

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

MARCH 24, 1980

CONTACT: ANN MILLS GRIFFITHS

223-6846 or 861-2788

WASHINGTON, D.C.: THE AP WIRE OUT OF PARIS, FRANCE, INDICATING THAT TWO HIGH RANKING VIETNAMESE OFFICIALS HAVE REPORTED AT LEAST 30 AMERICANS STILL IN CAPTIVITY IN VIETNAM ADDS CREDIBILITY TO THE INCREASING NUMBER OF SUCH REPORTS CURRENTLY UNDER INVESTIGATION BY THE DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE AGENCY.

THIS SPECIFIC REPORT TENDS TO CONFIRM PREVIOUSLY RECEIVED INFORMATION THAT SEPARATE CATEGORIES OF U.S. PRISONERS ARE STILL IN VIETNAM, NEAR HANOI, AND THAT THEY ARE TO BE EXPLOITED FOR PROPAGANDA PURPOSES.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE NATIONAL LEAGUE OF FAMILIES HAS OBTAINED SUFFICIENT EVIDENCE TO CONCLUDE THAT AMERICANS ARE, IN FACT, CURRENTLY HELD AS PRISONERS IN VIETNAM.

THE LEAGUE URGES THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION TO PURSUE THIS AND SIMILAR REPORTS WITHOUT DELAY, STATING THAT A NATIONAL POLICY TO SEEK THE RELEASE OF ANY AMERICAN PRISONERS MUST BE IMMEDIATELY ESTABLISHED.

ANN MILLS GRIFFITHS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, STATED, "SO MANY SIGHTINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED THAT THE CONSENSUS IS THAT U.S. PRISONERS ARE BEING WITHHELD FOR PURPOSES KNOWN ONLY TO THE VIETNAMESE."

THE FOLLOWING ARTICLE APPEARED IN THE SANTA ANA (CALIFORNIA) REGISTER ON SUNDAY, MARCH 23, 1980, ON PAGE A-2. The article is retyped for legibility.

"PARIS, AP: The French magazine, L'Express, Saturday quoted two Vietnamese as saying at least 30 Americans captured during the Vietnamese war are still being held in Vietnam.

The weekly news magazine did not name the Vietnamese, but said both had been high ranking officials who have asked for political asylum in France.

It reported they said the Americans were divided into two groups. Those in the first group have accepted Communist indoctrination and are being prepared to return to the United States to engage in propaganda activities, according to the article. It said those Americans are living near Hanoi.

The report said the other Americans were considered to be "important persons" who are being held for possible exchange of "spies" if some sort of political agreement is reached between Washington and Hanoi.

It did not say where they were being held or how many Americans were in each group.

The generally conservative L'Express said the Vietnamese were aware that U.S. officials have disavowed other reports of Americans being held in Vietnam since the United States withdrew from the conflict in 1973. Communist led forces defeated the U.S. backed government in Southern Vietnam in the spring of 1975.

About a year ago, the U.S. government issued a report listing 1,150 Americans who were unaccounted for in the war as known dead whose bodies were not recovered. It said approximately 1,350 others were not among the 533 prisoners of war freed by the Communists in 1973 and that a special House of Representatives panel and a presidential task force concluded that none of the missing persons was alive and recommended they be presumed dead."

Grand Consideration

March 25, 1980

Major General John Singlaub, USA-Ret.
Corona Trail
Granby, Colorado 80478

Dear General Singlaub:

The Board of Directors of the National League of Families has asked that I contact you to ascertain whether you have any information regarding Vietnam POW/MIAs, either directly or indirectly through policy matters of which you may be aware.

Your public comments regarding Korean POWs have been widely distributed and have not passed unnoticed by the League leadership and the POW/MIA families throughout the country. You are to be commended for bringing necessary attention to a problem too long ignored.

I have asked Phil Clarke to personally deliver this request, hoping that you may be able to respond prior to our upcoming Board of Directors meeting, scheduled for April 11-13th at Bolling AFB.

Phil and I have discussed the article planned for the American Legion magazine in the near future. I have provided him with Vietnam POW/MIA information, including up to date data on numerous live sighting reports currently under investigation by the Defense Intelligence Agency. It is hoped that the Korean and Vietnam POW/MIA information can be brought together in that same article in the best interest of both problems.

It appears that I will finally have the pleasure of meeting you at the River Rat Convention in late April. I will be speaking at a business session on Saturday morning, April 26th. After having heard such complimentary comments from Rosemary Jersak and others, I am looking forward to the opportunity to chat with you.

Thank you for any cooperation you may be able to provide. I look forward to your reply.

Respectfully,

Ann Mills Griffiths
Executive Director

Enclosures (informational)